(b) As per available information, only 16 villages are yet to be electrified in the State, of which, 9 villages are treated as uninhabited.

(c) Two villages are programmed for electrification in Tamil Nadu during the current year.

Soviet aided Power and Coal Mining Projects in West Bengal and Bihar

1843. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fate of a number of Soviet-aided power projects in West Bengal and Bihar have become uncertain following the post-coup developments in the Soviet Union as per the news item entitled "Soviet-aided projects face black future" which appeared in the 'Times of India' of the 16th September, 1991; and

(b) if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The power projects tied up for Soviet technical and financial assistance are the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (840 MW) of the National Thermal Power Corporation and the Maithon Thermal Power Project (840 MW) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, both in Bihar and the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project Phase-I (630 MW) of the West Bengal Power Development Corporation in West Bengal. The Soviet Government have assured the Government of India that it stands by all its commitments in the power sector, as recently as on 14-18 November, 1991 during the visit to Moscow of the External Affairs Minister.

Progress of Soviet assisted Thermal Power Projects

1844. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the Soviet assisted Thermal Power Projects in the country;

(b) what is the present stage of progress in respect of each of those projects;

(c) whether the Indo-Soviet working Group on Power has met, recently; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) A list of Soviet aided Thermal Power Projects alongwith their present status is given below:—

Name of the Project	Implementing Agency Capacity (MW)	Present status
1. Vindhyachal STPP Stage-I (M.P.)	NTPC (1260)	All units commissioned.
2. Vindhyachal STPP Stage-II (M.P.)	NTPC (1000)	Preliminary work at site is in progress.
3. Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project Stage-I (Kerala)	NTPC (420)	Environment and Forest clearances awaited. DPR has been prepared by Soviet side.

	Name of the Project	Implementing Agency Capacity (MW)	Present Status
4.	Mangalore Thermal Power Project Stage-I (Karnataka)	NTPC (420)	Environment and Forest clearance awaited. DPR has been prepared by Soviet side.
5.	Kahalgaon STPP Stage-I (Bihar)	NTPC (840)	Bulk of Soviet supplies has been received. The construction & erection work is in an advanced stage. Various units will be commissioned in a phased manner starting with Unit-I in the fourth quarter of 1991-92.
6.	Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Plant (Bihar)	DVC (840)	DTR prepared by Soviet side. Investment decision awaited.
7.	Bakreswar Thermal Thermal Project (West Bengal)	WBPDGL(630)	Government of West Bengal has proposed that this project be delinked from the Soviets.

(c) and (d) The XIVth Meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on power was held in New Delhi from April 1-5, 1991. The Working Group reviewed the progress of implementation of various Soviet aided power projects.

Establishment of Dulhasti-Kishenpur-Srinagar Power Project

1845. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the establishment of Dulhasti-Kishenpur-Srinagar 400 KV transmission network in Jammu and Kashmir was signed for development with Soviet assistance under the Indo-Soviet protocol in 1986;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to sharp cost escalation the assigned Soviet Development Agency are now backing out from their financial commitment; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) As per the Indo-Soviet protocol signed in April, 1986, both Indian and Soviet sides agreed to examine the possibility of cooperation in the design and construction of the 400 KV Dulhasti-Kishenpur-Srinagar transmission line project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Losses suffered by SEBs

1846. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the losses of State Electricity Boards continue to pile up and power supply position remains short of demand;

(b) if so, what are the details of losses suffered by State Electricity Boards during the last years; and

(c) the reasons for such losses and steps contemplated by the Central Government to save State Electricity Boards from losses?